

Phoenix Day School for the Deaf

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Roadrunner Review – Q2/Q3 2016-2017



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Representative Boyer Visits PDSB!

Representative Paul Boyer came to the Phoenix Day School for the Deaf December 1, 2016, to tour and visit with teachers and students. Paul has been an official spokesman and policy advisor for the House Majority at the State Capitol for three years, the legislative liaison for the Arizona Department of Corrections for three years and the Supervisor of District Communications for Mesa Public Schools, the largest school district in the state.

He is an advocate for common sense conservative principles: life, education, public safety, job creation and economic development. He also is an instructor at the University of Phoenix and taught the U.S. Constitution, Public Speaking, Mass Communication, Oral Communication, Public Speaking for the IT Professional and Media Influences on American Culture.

Representative Boyer arrived at PDSB with Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) liaison Maria Murphy and Superintendent Annette Reichman. Two of our senior students, Rachel Arvizu and Myron Zartman-Bailey, took the lead for the tour. We visited our new CTE Paxton Patterson Action Lab. We had the opportunity to visit two preschool classrooms and discuss the importance of our students having good language acquisition. Paul was very fascinated with what our preschool program offers to deaf and hard of hearing students and their



parents. During the tour, Paul was a strong advocate for the garden and was very impressed with our wonderful students who are keen on planting vegetables and flowers. He met with a middle school social studies class and was very impressed with the students' learning of the constitution and how the students were fully engaged in discussion. Then, he visited the high school science class. He was excited to see the room was filled with visual aids and hand-on projects. The teacher stressed the importance of the students understanding science terminology and how their knowledge evolves when presented with visual aids and hands-on activities.

Last, we met with 9 students from grades 5-12. Students had the opportunity to ask Paul different questions, such as why he was interested in politics, what is his job, why is he a strong advocate for education, and so on. Then Paul had the chance to ask students different questions: how do they feel about academics, what they want to be in the future, what do they want to see more of at PDSB for the future, etc. Students stated that they wish for PDSB to have a dormitory in the future.

In summary, the tour with Paul Boyer was successful. We believe we have a new, important ally for ASDB/PDSB. As he left, he stated that he was very impressed with the school and with the students. He definitely wants to come back again!



Roadrunner Pride Program

The MS department has been piloting the Roadrunner Pride Program since January. This program is intended to be a positive behavior support system for the campus. Students have cards that help them keep track of their points. They can wear their card on a lanyard, carry it in their pocket, have it in their backpack, keep it in their agenda book, or wherever they so choose. Students earn points for positive behavior and lose points for negative behavior. The program is designed to recognize and promote positive behavior, but also includes consequences for negative behaviors. Character points can be given by any staff member for actions that are observed (not prompted) that align with the six pillars of character that we endorse at PDSB (Trustworthiness; Respect; Responsibility; Fairness; Caring; and Citizenship). We have started the initial discussion about what this looks like next year for all grade levels. The goal is that this program becomes our campus Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

The MS students participated in their first Pride Day at the end of 3rd quarter. According to staff and students, it was a great day! Students were seen helping each other, reminding each other of expectations, and enjoying themselves while watching a movie and playing games.

While the staff are always monitoring behavior and trying their best every day to make sure our students are acting as responsible, respectful, and mature young citizens of their school community, it warms our heart to see students holding each other accountable when they think teachers aren't looking. That can only mean our efforts are making a positive impact on the students!

READ ACROSS AMERICA

PDSB students and staff celebrated Dr. Seuss' Birthday and Read Across America on March 4. Almost all of the classes from preschool through high school, as well as some staff members, participated in a door decorating contest. Favorite books were chosen and large banners were made to show various elements of the story. Winners at each level were rewarded with a cookie party! Throughout the day, our principal, Courtney Fritz hosted "Breakfast with Courtney". She read stories to groups of students and served breakfast treats afterwards. Everyone was very comfortable because we made Read Across America day a Pajama Day.



Jump Rope for Heart

Jump Rope for Heart February 10- PDSB hosted its 7th Annual K-12 Jump Rope for Heart Event on February 10th to celebrate the hard work students did fundraising for the American Heart Association. The weather couldn't have been better as students jumped for enjoyment with friends, competed in the "jump count" and had the opportunity to win raffle prizes during their scheduled times outside on the new courts. Elementary students participated by collecting money using collection envelopes to earn "thank you" gifts while Middle and High School students participated by competing in the Penny Wars. Together our students were able to raise \$1,536.20 for the American Heart Association. The money goes towards research and education initiatives. We look forward to another great event in February 2018.



Blue, Green, ... and Gold: PDSB's Battle of the Books

Be prepared to root for our very own PDSB Battle of Books Blue and Green Teams as they prepare for their National Battle of the Books competition at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. come April! We are only weeks away from the final battle when we will travel across the nation to come head to head with some of the best readers from schools for the Deaf across the US.

Our contestants include: Coffey King, Faith Makarewicz, and Rue Abrams-Gay representing our PDSB's Blue Battle of the Books Team, and Ducati Camacho, Maria Gallardo Caudillo, and Mattea King representing our PDSB's Green Battle of the Books Team.

The Battle of the Books Playoffs presented us with a mighty battle, but we were triumphant with our Blue Team earning 53 out of 63 points and our Green Team earning 44 out of 63 points! Now that's how you battle!

The PDSB Battle of the Books Blue Team will go head to head against: The Maryland School for the Deaf, the New Mexico School for the Deaf, and the Rhode Island School for the Deaf. Our Green team will face: The Maryland School for the Deaf, Smithfield Middle School, and Venado Middle School.

Our Battle of the Books Blue and Green Teams will bring blue and gold Roadrunner pride to Washington D.C. for the final battle and, with a lot of practice and determination, will bring home a little "gold" as well!



Optimism, Gratitude and Happiness

Every year the Optimist Club of Arizona hosts a communication contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Students are given a topic in which they craft a 4-5 minute speech. This year, Phoenix Day School for the Deaf students Anna Gano and Alexis Navarez competed with students from Sequoia Deaf School and Arizona School for the Deaf. Over a period of two months, these students worked on creating speeches that addressed the topic, "What the World Gains from Optimism". Through personal one on one practice sessions with Deaf and Hearing teachers, interactions via Google Shared Docs, and scheduled practices with interpreters, PDSB students prepared to present their vision of optimism to the world. As the competition commenced, it was clear that Anna and Alexis were faced with some well-read and prepared competitors. All of the students presented positive views on the world in which they live. PDSB's own Alexis Navarez walked away with first place and a two thousand dollar scholarship award. In the end, all of the students truly walked away as winners, learning how to take an idea from inception to completion, sharing and networking with one another. Congratulations to both Anna and Alexis on a job well done!



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Our athletic program has been super busy recently. Our middle school boys basketball had a great season.

As for the Roadrunner Classic in New Mexico, our high school girls basketball team brought back the trophy! They won all the games they played. They have now won back to back Roadrunner Classic Championship! Our boys fought hard and came in second place for the second year in a row.

Our HS Boys and Girls Roadrunners travelled to Oregon to play in the Western States Basketball Classic basketball tournament against five other deaf schools. Our student athletes represented PSDS well throughout the tournament, both on and off the court. On the court, our PSDS girls dominated the games. They beat Arizona School for the Deaf in the championship game. Our boys played with heart and soul, and fought to claim 5th place.



Our PSDS players had a great season this year. Our girls won two championships (RRC & WSBC). We are all very proud of each individual who contributed to the team, and the coaches who worked hard every day at practice, and then applied the strategies to the games.

USADB (National basketball association) is having their national basketball tournament in Washington DC in April, and PSDS is proud that two of our seniors, Rachel and Yara, were selected to play in the HS All-Star game. Megan Tellefson, PSDS coach, was picked to lead the West All-Stars. This is the first time in history that PSDS has received this honor. Be sure to ask them about their experience after they come back from DC.

Our middle school girls' basketball teams have been busy playing games, and our track team is working hard to beat their own records. We look forward to wrapping up our athletic season with a lot of memories. We are all proud of our Roadrunners!



Our school wide PSDS Theater did three performances of The Wizard of Oz. The actors were made up of middle and high schoolers. They did a school performance and then two sold out community performances.

PRESCHOOL...CRITICAL LANGUAGE OPPORTUNITIES

Focused Language Time

Preschool has implemented a new “Focused Language” time. Each day, time is set aside for the teacher to work individually with students on increasing vocabulary and language structures. It is wonderful to see how building that vocabulary base in these short focused sessions pays off when we are in our areas of play. We are so proud of all our students’ growth!!



Family Events

Preschool loves our families!! We invite them to participate in as many events with us as possible. During our first semester, our families have participated in various class field trips, family activities in the classroom and parent evening events such as game night and our deaf adult panel evening event. These shared experiences reinforce how crucial it is to have a strong school and family team. It is the key to our students’ success!!



**Preschool family sign language classes are every Tuesday morning from 8am-9am in the preschool office. Spanish interpreters are available at all classes. Come increase your ability to communicate with your child!!

Tree Lighting ~ Holiday Celebration



In December, the 2016 Tree Lighting Ceremony at Phoenix Day School for the Deaf had a fantastic performance! Students from kindergarten through high school practiced hard and did a great job!

Elementary school presented their play about the *12 days of Arizona Christmas*, the Middle school gave the *Nutcracker* performance, and the high school gave their performance of *Home Alone*. Erwin, the art teacher and his class made an awesome rat mask for the middle school play. The Technology classes, with Amy and Lindsay, created a flyer and background wall. The life skills ASL class provided an awesome hand-shape holiday story!



ASL Golf

Golf field trip January 31- Ten 8th grade students earned the privilege to attend an all-day field trip to pre-PGA tourney hosted by Waste Management of Phoenix. The day began with a group lesson led by Robert Strano (former pro golfer) then the students visited a private vendor trailer. They were able to see how golf clubs were made. The day ended with a brief tour of the golf course where the PGA players would play the following day. The students were also able to watch a few pro-golfers warming up on the course.

Future Leaders from PDSB Flex Their Academic Muscles!

The 2016-2017 PDSB Academic Bowl Team exceeded many people's expectations this year at the Gallaudet University Western Regional Academic Bowl tournament. With the loss of 2 key seniors last year to graduation, no one expected PDSB to make a run like they did. Adding to the fight in front of us, we were assigned to the Western Region for this year and beyond, pitting us against national heavyweights like California School for the Deaf Fremont and CSD-Riverside to name a few. In the end, we went 8-1 in our pool which included both California schools and other tough competitive schools from New Mexico, Hawaii, and California.

However, we were involved in a three-way tie for first place in our pool, and based on points scored against the other 2 teams we were assigned as the 3rd place team of our pool, which meant we had to take a wild card test. We did not make the Nationals this year, but the team exceeded so many expectations and represented Phoenix in the most competitive, best way we could have done. Congrats to Claude Martinez-Krohn, Alexis Nevarez, Natasha Richards-Hamilton, and Myron Lee Zartman-Bailey for their hard work at the Regionals. We could not do this without our supporting cast, so we also thank Maddie Fears, Brandon Licon, Kissandra Rivera, Ramon Soto and James Sauer for their help in practices and participating in the club. We look forward to the 2018 Regional Tournament to be held in February at Irvine, California!



Go Roadrunners!

PLAY Day

Play Day March 10- The purpose of our Play Day on March 10th was for all students from K-12 to play and work together as a team. The afternoon began with a short dancing performance led by Erwin Carlson and his art class. Next, the students were split into three groups of 8 teams. Each team consisted of 1 to 2 students from Pre-K, elementary school, middle school, and High School, with the High School Seniors leading the teams. It was part of the leadership skills that the seniors have developed over their years of classes at PDSB. All of the teams played 6 different activities, which included the tug-of-war, working with partners carrying items from one end of the line to another, the lily pond, and bringing a hula hoop from one end of the students' line to the other end of the students' line. The activities were done throughout the afternoon and the day ended with snacks and prizes for everyone. Everyone had a great time!

A CODA (child of a deaf adult) author visits PDSB!



It was a huge pleasure having Myron Uhlberg come to PDSB and do a storytelling of his book, *The Printer*, to Elementary and Middle School classes. Mr. Uhlberg also shared his writing and travel experiences with a High School English class. Teachers and students learned how he grew up having deaf parents and sharing those experiences as a CODA (Child of Deaf Adult) in his books. Even more exciting, 9 students won a book with Myron's autograph! They were thrilled to bring the book home and share it with their families. Parents and students are welcome to borrow Myron's books from our library.